(2) Statement showing the number of decisions passed by Panchayat Courts and appeals disposed of.

	1096	1097	1098	1099	1100.
Number of decrees given ...	2,833	2,958	2,809	2,551	3,038
Number taken for revision ...	*	16	14	35	52
Number confirmed in revision ...	*	7	8	19	33
Number reversed ...	*	9	6	16	6
Number modified ...	*	...	...	2	1
Number remanded ...	*	...	...	...	12

* N. B.— No information is available.

Demands for Supplementary Grants.

President:—The next item of business in the agenda is 'Demands for Supplementary Grants'.

Demand XV—'Law and Justice.'

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 250 under "15. Law and Justice, B (2) District Courts, Temporary Establishment."

In the re-organisation of the Civil Judicial Department ordered in 1097, a reduction of hands was effected in all the courts. Accordingly, the posts of two clerks in the Anjikaimal District Court were abolished, though the District Judge demurred to this course of action. With a view, however, to see that the reduced staff was not overburdened with work, the Judges of the Chief Court were requested to consider the feasibility of reducing the registers, etc., maintained in Civil Courts. Since the reduction of hands, representations were often received from the District Judge of Anjikaimal of the increase of work consequent on the introduction of new regulations, the establishment of Additional Court, etc. The cry for relief became acute with the transfer of the Mukundapuram Taluk to the jurisdiction of the Aajikaimal District Judge which, while intensifying the pressure in the Anjikaimal District Court, has not caused any material reduction in the work of the Trichur District Court. Hence the Government were compelled to give relief to the ministerial staff of the Anjikaimal District Court, and they were accordingly pleased to sanction the appointment of two temporary clerks on a pay of Rs. 25 each per mensem for a period of 6 months from 1st Chingam 1101. In the meanwhile, the Chief Court Judges were requested to expedite their proposals for the abolition of registers, etc., already referred to. The proposals of the Judges have been received. The changes suggested are very slight, and no material reduction in the work is likely to result by giving effect to the suggestions.

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The Anjikaimal District Court, therefore, stands in need of permanent relief, and Government propose for the present the continuance of the temporary clerks till the end of the current year; the question of their permanent retention being left for the consideration of the Special Finance Committee. An additional allotment of Rs. 250 is necessary for the purpose, and it may be sanctioned.

President.—Has any member to say anything with regard to that?

Mr. K. T. Methew: To reduce by one rupee the demand for the supplementary grant of Rs. 250 under Law and Justice.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I rise to move a cut of one rupee for finding out the necessity of improving the method of putting and answering supplementary questions in this Council. If the President will permit me, I shall deal with them.

President.—Is the matter connected with this item?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—That is why I ask for the leave of the President.

President.—I do not know whether this is the time for raising this question. I thought you are bringing a token motion for raising some points with regard to the grant. You want to see that certain principles are followed with regard to the answering of supplementary questions.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is it not within the power of the Council to refuse the grants?

President.—What is the use of asking my permission? Do not the Standing Orders provide for that?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—No, there is no particular section.

President.—You have to bring to the notice of the Council all matters in connection with the answering of questions, and I do not think that it comes within the purview of this grant. I think I can allow that only during the general discussion of the budget.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Under Rule 53 (2) supplementary or additional grants may be dealt with in the same way as demands for grants.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Even without a specific object, I can move a cut for one rupee.

President.—It must be relevant.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I move to reduce the grant by one rupee. Am I to show any reason?

President.—I think the motion for reduction is a token

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motion, not with the specific object of reducing the demand by one rupee. You want to raise a question of principle, and that is the object of raising such token motions.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I move this motion simply with the object of affording an opportunity for the other members also to speak. I move to reduce the demand by one rupee.

President.—Anybody seconding the motion?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I second it. I second it with the object of bringing to the notice of the House, as I have done more than once, that supplementary grants should always be met with disfavour from the House. We have answers to questions with reference to allotments, actual expenditure and variation of expenditure given this day in the answers to questions that have been put. It has been found then that sometimes allotments are made without previously investigating whether there is any necessity. It has been said that allotments that have been made were not spent, because no necessity was found after the allotments were made. Questions, therefore, arise whether these allotments are made on any principle or policy, and whether necessities are found before the allotment of the public funds is made. The Council cannot but look upon this haphazard method of allotment with nothing but disfavour. I submit that, when this is the only power that we have in order to bring the Government to the full sense of their responsibility, we have power to withold any expenditure of this kind. Even if the House refuses the grant, we can only show our temper by that, because the power of certification is still with the Government. Therefore, Sir, you use your full powers in overriding our wishes, and that would be the only way in which we can bring to the notice of the public the things that are done here. The mover asked your permission to call the attention of the House to the manner in which questions are answered in this House. It is the feeling of many members on this part of the House that questions are being shirked, and answers are given in a dogmatic manner.

President.—Why do you make references to all that? It is irrelevant.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—No, Sir. I beg to state my reasons also. "Grievance before supply"—that is the rule in the Parliament. Grievance, if any, must be expressed before supply, and we are to seek remedy. If you don't remedy, we are not in a position to give you supplies. That is the right Parliamentary procedure. If the House is feeling a particular grievance,

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the first opportunity to ventilate their grievance should be taken up, and it is with the Government. There is no money to spend. Already, we have been doing something. We should undertake to remedy the defects. We are prepared to give money. Therefore, if you have grievance, the fiirst thing is to find a relevant occasion to ventilate that grievance. The Government comes forward for supplies.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—It was at the time of Charles I.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I may even say that, if the Commonwealth Bill is thrown out in England, the first thing to be done in the Assembly in India is to throw out the budget, and make the Government carry on the administration without it. I am only speaking from a constitutional aspect of it. I see there is a grievance, and I request you to kindly take note of it. Otherwise, I oppose the passing of this grant.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—A point of order. Can we raise a discussion on all these matters? This is a question of supplementary grants. I ask only for information.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Rule 52.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Thank you.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Sir, as a Member of the Standing Finance Committee, I had an opportunity to go through the demand referred to here, and of course, I am satisfied that it is necessary. But I rise to support the motion of the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam, because it is only a token motion. My object in supporting that motion is to bring to the notice of this House an appointment that was made soon after we dispersed after the Makaram session. I refer to the appointment of the Law Reporter to the Cochin Government. The discussion on appointments took place on Friday, and I insisted on appointments being made from the communities which are not adequately represented, and in the Gazette of Saturday we found the appointment of Mr. S. Govinda Menon as Law Reporter. On that day the Hon'ble Member for Vyttila challenged the members of the backward communities who are not adequately represented to go to the bar and fight. Many have gone before that challenge. I ask the Government whether there are not men in any other communities who are qualified and who are fit to occupy the position of Law Reporter especially because the position of the Law Reporter, has been made a half-time appointment. It has always been held by the caste-Hindus. With these words, I support the motion.

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Dr. A. R. Menon.—Is there any rule with regard to the appointment of this Law Reporter, that it should or should not be given to caste-Hindu? Who prevents a Christian from being appointed to that post?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Many questions have been raised. I do not think we can confine ourselves to a particular issue.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—With the permission of the House I beg to withdraw. I want the permission of the House, because it has been seconded.

The motion was then put to votes and carried. The President then put to the House the supplementary grant of Rs. 250 under "Law and Justice". The motion was carried.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—A point of order. Under Rule 18, sub-rule 3, votes may be taken by voices or division, and shall be taken by division, if the member so desires. That is the practice in the Madras Council also. Votes may be taken by voices or division—by division, if challenged. That is what we call "poll" here. All are to say 'Aye' or 'No', and the President has to say which is the louder in voice.—(*Laughter.*)

President.—Well, my own personal experience in the Madras Council is that hands are raised there, when the question is put to the vote.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—They will all say 'Aye' or 'No'. That is what I am told. I speak on information.

President.—Is there anybody here who has attended the Madras Legislative Council and who can enlighten us on the point? Mr. Raja, in regard to such matters, are we to look to the substance of the article or to the letter of the article?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—The President is not a barometer to weigh their voices. I know there is much difficulty. It is a very difficult process. Anyhow, that is the rule.

President.—Here also the rule is the same.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The second sentence of Rule 19 (3) says ":—may be taken by voice or division and shall be taken by division, if so desired by the members."

President.—Is it inconvenient to raise hands?

Mr. S. S. Koder.—It is easier.

President.—Mr. Raja, you want a ruling on the point?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I don't press, Sir.

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Demand VIII.—'Customs'.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 35 for T. A. under "8—Customs". Ordinarily, only Rs. 45 was necessary for travelling allowance under this head. But this year I had to depute the Deputy Superintendent of Customs to Chittur in connection with the closing of the Chittur Salt Depot. That was opened in 1096 and continued till the end of 1100. Towards the end of that year it was found that the Depot was not working satisfactorily. So the Government peremptorily ordered its closure, and further ordered that all the surplus stock should be disposed of before the end of that year. I waited to see whether the Chairman will be able to dispose of the surplus stock, but it was found that he was not able. It was found at the end of that year that there was 1,200 maunds of salt left at the depot out of the 2,000 delivered in Kumbham of that year. Then I tried to get it disposed of by the wholesale merchants of Tattamangalam. They were first unwilling to purchase the salt, because the transport charges incurred by the Municipality were found to be rather high. At last I prevailed upon them to purchase salt from there, but they insisted that it should not be at the shop rate, and they prayed that the same officer who used to issue should be sent there. I sent the Deputy Superintendent who issued the consignment to the Municipal Depot of Chittur at the standard rate. That is how the necessity for this supplementary grant arose. His T. A. came to Rs. 30 or Rs. 35.

President.—The question before the House is that a supplementary grant of Rs. 35 be made under "8—Customs-T. A."

Mr A. B. Salem.—The motion has not been seconded.

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—There is no such necessity.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—All motions are to be seconded, but not motions for demands.

President.—Yes, I also think so.

The demand was putand agreed to.

Demand I—'Land Revenue'.

Rao Sahib T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—I beg to demand that this House be pleased to vote a supplementary grant of Rs. 1,162 under Charges, Head I—Land Revenue—Temporary Establishment. The grant applied for is for continuing, till the end of 1101, the special staff entertained for

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effecting a renewal of the leases of the Sirkar *jenm* lands in Travancore.

The members are, I presume, aware of the fact that the Sirkar is a prominent jenmi, both in British Malabar and Travancore, owning extensive lands in both the territories. These lands have been leased to a large number of tenants on various tenures, the majority being *verumpattom* or simple leases. Unlike ordinary Malabar jenmies who usually collect their rent in kind, we collect the rent on our *jenm* lands in cash. Till recently, the commutation rate was one fanam or four annas seven pies per para of paddy. The rate of 4 annas 7 pies was fixed long ago—some twenty years back when prices were not quite so high. Having regard to the subsequent large increase in the price of paddy, which is ranging between twelve annas and one rupee per para, Government decided three years ago to raise the commutation rate to eight annas per para.

The enhancement of the commutation rate necessitated a complete renewal of all holdings. The renewal of the several holdings in British Malabar was taken up in 1098, vigorously pushed on and practically completed in 1099, and the result was a permanent increase, in the revenue, of nearly ten thousand rupees.

After this, the work was taken up in Travancore. The *jenm* lands in Travancore lie scattered in several patches in the four Taluks of Parur, Kunnattunad, Muvattupuzha and Vaikam. They are distributed over 15 pakuthies or villages and do not form a compact block. They comprise 774·18 acres of *nilams* and 152·14 of *parambas*.

The House need not be told of the laborious nature of the renewal work, especially when it happens to be outside the State where you cannot adopt any effective coercive measures, except filing of civil suits, and where you have only yourselves to look up to. Changes in the holdings take place every day, by sale, partition, etc., most of which involve sub-division of holdings. Again, conversion of *parambas* to *nilams* has been going on. All these necessitate a minute field to field inspection of all holdings and preparation of an accurate land register. All sub-divisions of the several survey fields have to be incorporated in the copies of the field sketches obtained from the Taluk Offices, by actual measurements of all fields and examining all documents evidencing title, in the possession of the tenants. The tenants must be got to execute the renewed lease deeds, and hardly will any tenant execute the renewed deed without demur and without evading execution of the document.

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A trial was at first made by me in 1099 to get the work done by the normal subordinate staff. But the results were not encouraging. The two Oodupulli Parvatiams could attend to this work only in their spare moments. Experience showed that a special staff for attending exclusively to renewal was necessary for the Travancore lands, just as in the case of Sirkar lands in British Malabar. A small staff was, therefore, entertained in Meenam 1099, and they began work in right earnest. But progress was retarded by delay in getting copies of the field sketches from the Travancore authorities. Tenants have also adopted obstructive tactics. They would not even hand over their title deeds for verification. The unfortunate floods of 1099 caused a set-back in the work for about three months, as all the renewal officers were put on relief work. The period of the temporary staff already sanctioned expired by the end of Vrischigam 1101.

Half the work was completed by the end of Vrischigam. Inspection and measurement of lands have been finished in almost eleven out of the 15 pakuthies, the area covered being 369·12 acres of *nilams* and 49·53 acres of *parambas*. Tenant-war demarcation and preparation of land registers of most of the 11 pakuthies have also been completed. Out of 460 lease deeds to be got executed, drafts have been made ready in some 250 cases. Execution and registration of the renewed deeds according to the drafts approved by me are also proceeding apace, but the tenants do not come round easily. There is, therefore, some difficulty.

It will thus be seen that, while there is appreciable progress shown already, a good deal of work remains to be done. Much spade work has been done. From the nature of the case, one cannot say when the work would be finished, and no definite period can be decided on, on the mathematical principle of time and work. I am putting pressure on the renewal officers, and I take particular care to see that they do not fritter away their time. I have checked their work frequently. I have directed them to complete the work in all details before the close of the current year.

The details of the grant I propose are:—

(i)	Increase of pay to the Revenue Inspector of Chowwara at Rs. 10 per mensem for 7 months	Rs.	70
(ii)	Allowance to the 2 Oodupulli Parvatiams at Rs. 3 each	,,	42
(iii)	Pay of 2 renewal officers at Rs. 30 each	,,	420
(iv)	Pay of 4 special masapadies at Rs. 10 each	,,	280

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(v)	Allowance to the Taluk clerk at Rs. 5 per mensem	,,	35
(vi)	Travelling allowance to the Revenue Inspectors and Parvatiams	,,	315
	Total	Rs.	1,162

The Parvatiams get a consolidated travelling allowance of Rs. 10 each, and the Revenue Inspector the actual travelling allowance he is entitled to according to the rules.

The renewal of the Travancore holdings is expected to bring in an additional permanent revenue of Rs. 1,500 per annum. There will also be an additional revenue of about Rs. 1,500 in the current year in the shape of renewal fees, back rent, etc. I have not taken credit for these items in the budget estimates for 1101. Thus the House, I hope, will not hesitate to vote for the small additional grant applied for.

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—Sir, I second it.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I had sent a question regarding the Staff Selection Board. I was told that it is a prerogative of His Highness, and regarding that I have sent a communication giving my reasons. Only after receiving an answer to that question, I can offer any remarks as to whether this grant is to be allowed or not.

President.—The matter has not been disposed of. Here it is only a supplementary grant under Land Revenue, Temporary Establishment.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—It requires some appointments. The policy of appointments I have discussed in the previous meeting. What I want to know is whether the Government is aware of that fact. Remarks can only be offered after getting this reply. I think I can carry this point to the next budget session.

The motion was put to the vote and the demand was allowed.

The following motion of Mr. K. T. Mathew was considered to have been withdrawn, as it was not moved:—

To reduce by one rupee the supplementary demand for Rs. 1,162 under Land Revenue.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar's Cochin Municipal Regulation Amendment Bill.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—Sir, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Cochin Municipal Amendment Regulation be read in this Council.

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